

Ladies and gentlemen of the Commission and staff:  
Thank you for this opportunity to respond to petition 04-160.

I view with genuine alarm the efforts of the NAB to restrict the activities of XM and Sirius. Over the past forty years, I have observed the sad decline of commercial radio from the broad variety offered in the early 1960's (Dave Herman-The Marconi Experiment on WMMR-FM, Jonathan Schwartz on WNEW, WNEW-FM and WPLJ, just to cite two) to the homogeneous pulp which jams the airwaves today. Radio simply lacks diversity. This is one unavoidable consequence of the large scale consolidation that the FCC has allowed, and that the broadcasters have eagerly sought. Today in Charlotte NC there are no satisfactory alternative to a sat based radio service. I am sufficiently alienated by commercial radio that I'm willing to pay for service. My perspective is shaped by several years' employment in the broadcasting industry as well as service as a trustee of two public radio stations.

Accepting NAB's petition 04-160 merely yields to the worst form of self-serving influence. The NAB worked hard for consolidation in the 1990's. The lesson from that experience is: careful what you wish for. You asked for it; you got it; now live with it. Let's move on to the next era.

Thank you for listening.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Gallagher  
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XM Radio Subscriber